

**Trachoma: Its Prevalence, Its Effects Upon Vision and the Methods of Control and Eradication.** By Gordon L. Berry, Field Secretary National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. December, 1915. New York: National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness.

This pamphlet of forty pages, issued by the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, is written in a style easily understood by the intelligent layman.

By the aid of illustrations and statistics, modes of infection, the appearance of the disease in its different stages, with the direful sequelae in untreated cases of trachoma are very forcibly made evident. Directions are given how to avoid the disease.

As trachoma is far more prevalent in California than most of us realize, this pamphlet should have a wide distribution amongst our teachers, social workers and visiting nurses. A. S. G.

#### **The Mortality From Cancer Throughout the World.**

By Frederick L. Hoffman, LL.D., F.S.S., F.A.S.A., Statistician to the Prudential Insurance Company of America; Chairman Committee on Statistics, American Society for the Control of Cancer; Member American Association for Cancer Research; Associate Fellow American Medical Association; Associate Member American Academy of Medicine, etc., etc. Octavo 826 pages, 563 tables. The Prudential Press, Newark, New Jersey, 1916.

This volume, dedicated to the American Society for the Control of Cancer and to the American Association for Cancer Research, is one of the most exhaustive that has appeared on the subject of cancer statistics. The author's position eminently fits him to elaborate upon this subject and with the co-operation of the officers of the Federal Government a most complete array of statistics is presented for the physician and layman. The various etiological factors (irritation, trauma, etc.), are dealt with, as well as a rather comprehensive review of occupational influences. Statistics (Karl Pearson and others) show that the probability of an inheritance of a predisposition to cancer is relatively remote. The controversial subject of "cancer-houses," the importance of which has been emphasized by several scientists in England, lacks sufficient evidence statistically to be considered of importance. Numerous tumor classifications contribute to the completeness of the volume. Almost three-quarters of the space is occupied by charts and tables dealing with the morbidity and mortality in the various states and larger cities of this country, as well as the various foreign countries and their larger cities. The incidence of the disease as to age, sex and organ is also tabulated. The differences in prevalence of the disease in the various foreign countries are striking. Though doubtless this is explainable at least in part by differences in efficiency of registration. Striking differences are noted in our largest cities which may not be explained in this way. In some tables one notes references to sarcoma as well as carcinoma. The author has made recommendations to the American Gynecological Society for the National Control of Cancer and among these the most conspicuous are the necessity for organizing an American Society for the purpose of educating the public as to the importance of early operation, for the further study of occupational influences, for dietary studies, for coordinated work with the Department of Agriculture in studying the incidences of the disease in the lower animals and plants. The bibliography and index of authors and subjects appear quite complete in addition to frequent and copious footnotes. Among his concluding statements one notes "that practically all forms of cancer are on the increase" and

"that the evidence of cancer increase throughout the world is an incontrovertible statistical fact" and "that cancer frequency decreases with diminishing distances from the equator." Many statistical studies have called forth adverse criticism in the deductions drawn from certain angles of observation. This book for its comprehensiveness, conciseness and clearness of text and tables may be recommended to the student of the cancer problem. W. T. C.

**Gynecology.** By William P. Graves, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Gynecology at Harvard Medical School. Octavo volume of 770 pages with 424 original illustrations, 66 of them in colors. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1916. Cloth, \$7.00 net; Half Morocco, \$8.50 net.

The very first impression received on opening Graves' Gynecology is favorable and this impression is strengthened with the careful reading of the text and examination of the excellent, clear-cut halftone drawings. The lucid wording, not a sentence of which needs re-reading in order to interpret the author's meaning, demonstrates the well-trained clear thinker.

The first section is a very valuable addition to the subject of gynecology. It marks an innovation to the usual textbook. There are 135 pages devoted to the "Physiology and Relationship of Gynecology to the General Organism." In this present time where the tendency to specialize is so widespread and the student in his senior year is already selecting a specialty, this extensive introduction to gynecology tells better than so many words, the need of several years of general medicine before the mind should become concentrated upon a special line of medicine. The first section is indeed a most valuable part of the book.

The second part dealing with the general diseases of the pelvic organs is written in interesting form, due credit being given to the work of the German investigators. I mention this because occasionally one is startled to find that one of our American writers is apparently the author of what has taken 20 years or more for foreign scientists to build up.

The personality of the author is ever pleasingly present and the reader feels he is getting the result of one man's extensive experience and not an encyclopedia of facts with no key to the good or bad.

The last section, on surgery, is especially good for the student. Many of the cuts are original and excellent. There is just enough explanation to prepare the student to appreciate the operation. Value is given to the operation the author prefers and the discarded operations are happily not resurrected from the older books. The microscopical sections are attractive and of great value.

Altogether it would be difficult to suggest or find a better book for the student or a more delightful one for the general practitioner to peruse.

M. I. J.

**The Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus, with Observations Upon the Disease Based Upon One Thousand Cases.** By Elliott P. Joslin, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Consulting Physician, Boston City Hospital; Collaborator to the Nutrition Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, in Boston. Octavo, 440 pages, illustrated. Cloth, \$4.50, net. Lea & Febiger, publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1916.

In diabetes, more than in any other chronic disease, there is a great need for close co-operation between physician and patient. All cases require, at least at the onset of treatment, the closest supervision of the patient by the medical adviser.